

words, functional limitations do not exist in a vacuum but are directly linked to the claimed structures and may not be ignored.

However, it is fundamental that *each* claim limitation must be given weight and consideration in determining patentability, whether under § 102 or § 103. Although a claimed apparatus cannot be distinguished over a prior apparatus based on the claimed apparatus functions, a functional limitation may impart structure to a claimed apparatus, and it is incumbent upon the examiner to demonstrate that a prior art apparatus is capable of performing the claimed function. In the present case, the examiner has not met the burden of demonstrating that the ozone generators of the cited prior art have a structure that has the *capability* of producing gas flow in a direction transverse to the longitudinal direction of the parallel grooves. (emphasis added). *Ex Parte Ryoichi Shinjo*, 2004 WL 4983459 (Bd. Pat. App. Interf. 2004).

Accordingly, Kamada fails to disclose a first run-on ramp on the first recess A configured to lift the outer link plate in a radial direction when the outer link plate is positioned laterally at the first tooth as recited in claim 1. As shown in FIG. 1 of US 4,889, 521 [as referenced in Kamada, col. 10, line 61], the first recess merely accommodates lateral translation of the chain whereas the second recess accommodates lateral translation and provides a run-on ramp. Accordingly, Kamada fails to show both first and second recesses having respectively first and second run-on ramps, each configured to lift the outer link plate in a radial direction when the outer link plate is positioned laterally at the first or second tooth as claimed in claim 1. For this reason, this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7-9, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Since claims 2-3, 5, 7-9, 12, 15 and 16 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of the claim 1, they are felt to overcome the 102 rejection in the same manner as claim 1.

Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yahata (2002/0086753). Claim 1 recites first and second lateral recesses disposed on a front face of the larger chainwheel facing the smaller chainwheel to allow the chain to move from the smaller chainwheel to the larger chainwheel. The recesses

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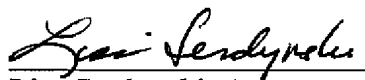
E and D of Yahata are on the back face of the larger chainwheel facing the next largest chainwheel, thereby not relevant to permitting lateral translation of the chain from the smaller chainwheel toward the front of face of the larger chainwheel. Accordingly, Yahata fails to disclose first and second recesses disposed on a front face of the larger chainwheel facing the smaller chainwheel to allow the chain to move from the smaller chainwheel to the larger chainwheel. For this reason, this rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2-3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 24 were rejected as claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b). Since claims 2-3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 24 depend directly or indirectly from and contain all the limitations of the claim 1, they are felt to overcome the 102 rejection in the same manner as claim 1.

This reply is believed to be fully responsive to the comments and suggestions of the Examiner and to place this application in condition for allowance. Favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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